



House Majority  
State of Utah

# LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER

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## Happy Holidays

We wish you all a happy and healthy holiday season! Please review [these](#) tips and guidelines as you plan holiday gatherings and activities. Additionally, this holiday season will look different for many families and may bring about additional stress and sadness. If you are feeling anxious, lonely, sad, or worried, the Utah Strong Recovery Project is here to offer free support. You can call or text them at [385-386-2289](tel:385-386-2289), or email them at [utahstrong@utah.org](mailto:utahstrong@utah.org).

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# REVENUE ESTIMATES AND EDUCATOR ASSISTANCE



This week, the Utah Legislature and Governor's Office released updated revenue numbers for the upcoming general session. Due to years of sound legislation and thoughtful planning throughout the pandemic, the state will see a 1.5% increase in revenue in the current 2021 fiscal year and a 6.5% increase in the 2022 fiscal year. Utah's fiscal health in the face of a pandemic is the envy of almost every other state in the country.

The Legislature plans to use \$121 million of this new revenue for a one-time COVID-19 educator assistance stipend for teachers and school staff who are making great sacrifices to keep schools open and educate Utah's children under challenging circumstances. The Legislature expresses profound appreciation for the dedication and hard work of the educators in the state. This stipend will provide \$1,500 to each full time teacher and \$1,000 to other full time school employees in districts where in-person learning is offered (Part-time employee stipends will be prorated).

Learn more about the Legislature's proposal [here](#).  
Read Speaker Brad Wilson's statement on the educator assistance stipend [here](#).

# COVID-19 VACCINE



Tuesday was an exciting day for Utah. The University of Utah delivered the first doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to its employees, with Intermountain soon following. Frontline healthcare workers, working in high-risk environments will be the first to receive the vaccination. Other healthcare workers, school staff, and first responders will be next, and should start receiving vaccinations later this month and into January. For a full overview of Utah's COVID-19 vaccination distribution plan, please click [here](#).

## NEW LEGISLATOR HIGHLIGHT - DOUG WELTON (DISTRICT 67)

Doug has lived in Payson since he was 4 years old, where he has been an active member of the community. While he spent the first part of his career working as a sales manager in the jewelry & diamond business (in Provo....go figure), when he was 31 he changed career paths to pursue a career in education. Now, he is a teacher at Salem Hills High School where he teaches Japanese, Current Issues, Philosophy, and Debate. Under his direction, his Debate Team has won the Regional Title 11 years in a row, the state championships, and competed in nationals. He is not the sole educator in his family either; his wife, Kerri, also works in education, having formerly taught bagpipes at Payson High for 14 years.

Doug earned a degree in History Education from Utah Valley State College (UVU) and a Masters in Educational Leadership from SUU. He has served on the Payson City Council for the last 5 years, but will be stepping down to dedicate time to his new legislative responsibilities. In his free time, his guilty pleasure is vegging out to Hell's Kitchen and enjoying some Bon Jovi, Def Leppard, and "a LOT of Michael Jackson." He also is an avid hiker, Boggle player, amateur photographer, and waterfall enthusiast.

Doug ran for the House because he felt he could be a good advocate for municipal and educational issues in the Legislature. He is also passionate about Ranked-Choice-Voting, particularly after seeing it work with great success in Payson City. He is most excited to experience the Capitol atmosphere and energy, as well as gaining the additional understanding of how things work at the state level. He is looking forward to helping be a part of the decision making process and hopes to be able to learn and provide valued input to the process.



# COVID-19 LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURES



COVID-19 guidelines for the 2021 General Session were released on Friday. To view these, click [here](#).

## LEGISLATIVE HOLIDAY SERVICE PROJECT

Thank you to those of you that donated to this year's service project. In total, we collected over \$5,000 in personal financial donations and \$3,000 from business donations. We are very appreciative to all those who made this year's service project a huge success!

